

by Mary Ann Hutcheson



Robin Keisler Mitchum

Robin Keisler Mitchum says she has never left Lexington, that her roots are right here where she was born and raised. She even lives in the same house where she grew up in the 1960s. She is a member of the Lexington High School class of 1978 and is delighted to be celebrating the 45th class reunion this month. Her class was the last to graduate from the original building that later housed Lexington Middle School.

After graduation Mitchum worked at South Carolina National Bank. As the years passed, she went through a few other positions at local businesses and later gained printing skills through the Technology Center. After marriage in 1989 she landed a job at the County of Lexington printshop that lasted 28 years until 2018, when she retired.

In 1996 Mitchum discovered the art of belly dancing, which she performed for over twenty-six years and taught for thirteen. Even though she retired from the practice in 2019, she soon realized that she couldn't stay away. She returned to the profession in August of 2022 and currently teaches beginner and intermediate classes at the Lexington Leisure Center. Mitchum explains, "First and foremost, belly dancing is so much fun, and it's very challenging. This is not a dance you can come and learn in just two or three days, or months. This isn't a step dance, it's a movement dance; you must move muscles you don't even know you have. It's a great way to keep in shape."

Coming full circle since her days growing up in the country in a small town in South Carolina, Mitchum has witnessed great deal of change. She thoughtfully remembers that a single stop sign was all that was needed to direct traffic back in the "good ole days", and where the Kleen Kare Dry Cleaners now sits at the intersection of North Lake Drive and Columbia Highway there used to be a 7-11 convenience store. She has fond memories of walking to the store with her friends to get a drink and a snack before school began.

A mother of two sons, a stepdaughter and three grandchildren, Mitchum is grateful that she has had a full and productive life and continues to touch others with her beautiful smile and warm, charismatic personality. With age comes experience and wisdom, with many new opportunities and adventures. Robin Keisler Mitchum might be the first person to tell you that aging may be inevitable, but growing old gracefully is a choice. ■

