

the coin because all the trees looked alike. Now it occurs to me that it would be impossible to find our coin as there are no trees left at all.” The image will dissolve to the treeless, bombed out streets of Kabul as they are today.

Scenes will be included that will dispel the image of the Afghans as stoic and unemotional — showing them as caring, compassionate and emotional, as the Afghan Americans reconnect to the country they left behind.

Along with the destruction in Afghanistan we will film the signs of progress and hope. “It was very traumatic to see the devastation because Kabul was nothing like I had envisioned from the wonderful stories my family told me over the years,” says **Katrin Fakire** of her first trip back in March 2002. “The second time I went, six months later, gave me so much hope. The difference was night and day. It showed what a resourceful



**Afghan students dancing during the late 1960s**

people the Afghans are. Businesses were booming, restaurants were full, people were out on the streets — there was excitement in the air.”

Alumnus **Ken Coleman** says of his time growing up in Afghanistan, “I made a point of getting out into the city of Kabul to meet and experience as much of the Afghan world as I could. I learned enough of the language to get around in taxicabs and haggle at the local markets and eat kabob cooked on open grills while drinking chi or local tea. The Afghans I got to know were welcoming and always had a smile and a joke for me. I never felt afraid or worried about harm coming to me. The Afghans I have met since are still the same wonderful people I knew so many years ago. Their world has changed, but the people have not.”