

PSK1 STD  
US Postage  
PAID  
St. Louis, MO  
Permit NO 5662

# C SENIOR CIRCUIT T

A PrimeLife Media Publication

News for Active People Fifty and Better - [www.SeniorCircuit.net](http://www.SeniorCircuit.net) Vol. 18 Issue 11 February 2005

## Restoration St Louis Brings Moolah Temple Back to Life

*Reported by Suzanne Corbett  
Photos by Alise O'Brien*

Moolah Temple, the original 1913 home for the Shriners of Eastern Missouri was almost lost to the wrecking ball. The majestic temple stood vacant for twenty years after the Shriners relocated to their new temple in Creve Coeur.

During those years a transformation took place that reclaimed the Grand Center area as an arts center, bringing new attention to the old Moolah Temple, an architectural and historic treasure.

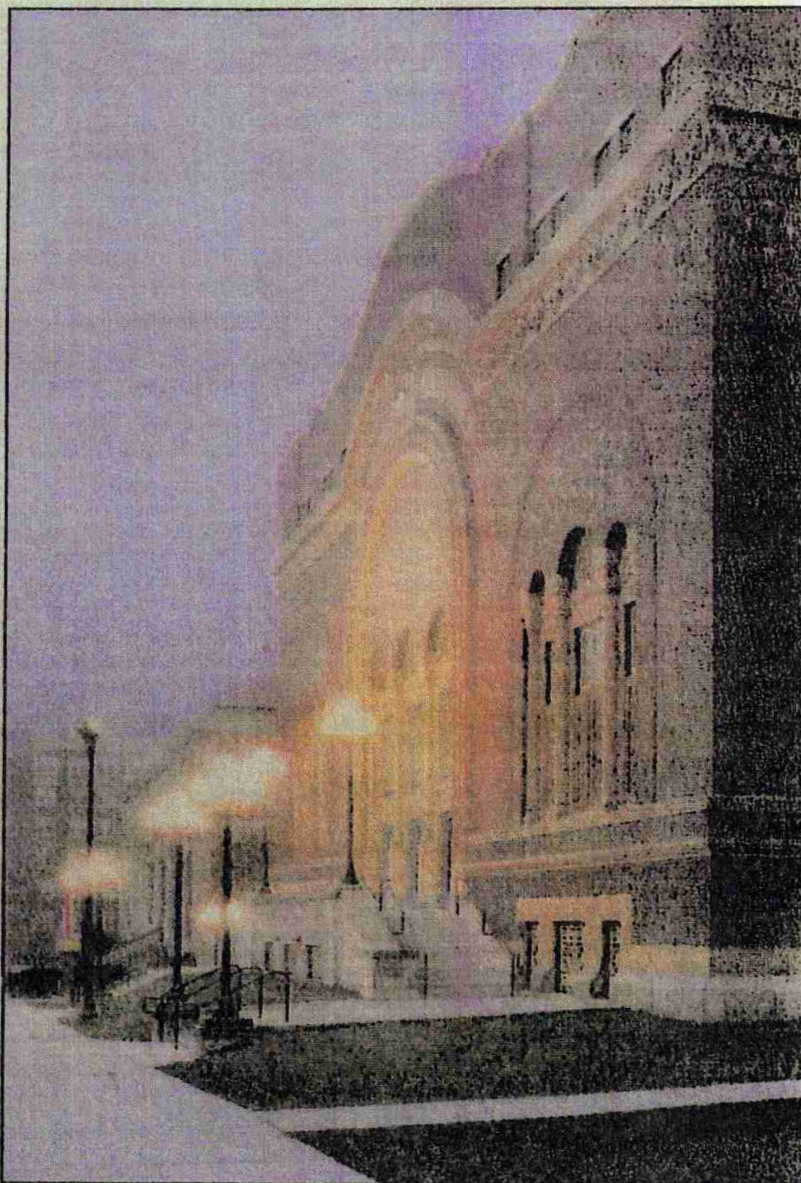
Amrit and Amy Gill, owners of Restoration St Louis could see past the disrepair and had the vision to restore the structure back to its original grandeur. Committed to the preservation of historic St. Louis properties, the Gills took on the massive project.

Moolah Temple is now restored. The \$17.2 million project has not only brought the landmark back to life, it has given St. Louis its first massive single-screen movie theater in decades, plus an eight-lane retro-styled bowling alley, and 40 luxury lofts.

"When we first toured the Moolah in 2002, it was in extreme disrepair," says Amy Gill of Restoration St. Louis. "We had to carefully maneuver our way through piles of discarded wood and debris. Pigeons were living in every crack and crevice. The paint was peeling and the floor was cracked and damaged. It was heartbreaking. But, even with all that was wrong with the building, we knew it could be rescued. The incredible architecture, the Moorish influences in the design, the vast space... this building was a treasure that needed to be restored."

Construction began on December 15,

*See Moolah Page 10*

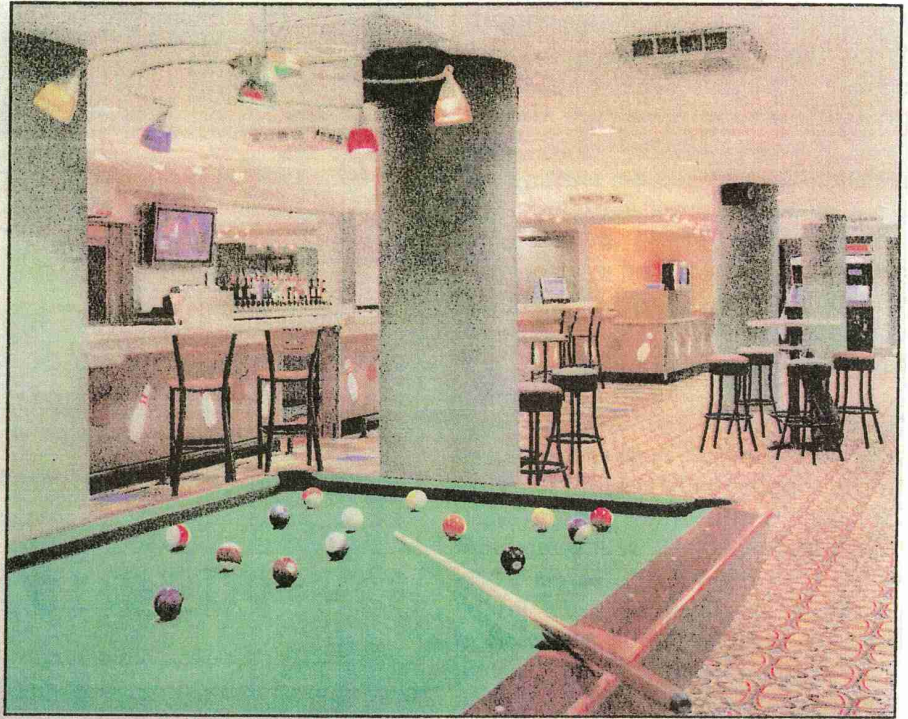


### *Moolah From Page 1*

2003 -- the rehab focused on restoring the vibrant colors and architecture of the Moorish design while giving the building purpose. The design called for a building that exuded quirky charm and provided unusual amenities, including a movie theater and bowling alley. The finishing touches were added in the winter of 2004, and the Moolah is ready to welcome a new generation of visitors to the cultural heart of St. Louis.

Harman Moseley, owner and operator of the Chase Park Plaza Cinemas and Galleria 6 Cinemas, along with his daughter Julia serve as the visionaries behind the Moolah Theater and Lounge.

"We wanted to generate some excitement in the city, and I think we've done that," says Harman Moseley. "This movie theater is like no other in town. We are catering to those who are looking for an alternative to massive movieplexes by offering personal touches you can't find anywhere else. We have installed St. Louis' biggest screen measuring 20' X 45', provided lush leather couches and loveseats plus a full balcony and stadium seating for up to 400 people. Patrons can visit our Movie Theater Lounge either before or after a show and enjoy a drink at the bar or bring their beverage into the theater with them."



From the massive movie theater located on the Moolah's main level, guests are invited to head downstairs to another quirky find: The Moolah Lanes, "St. Louis' Bowling Temple." The retro-styled bowling alley will feature eight full lanes plus pool tables, video games and a grill. Jim Barton, who has made Maplewood's Saratoga Lanes a landmark in its own right, will operate Moolah Lanes.

"Where else can you see a movie, enjoy a drink after work, bowl a few frames, and then head upstairs to your loft? Nowhere.," said Barton. "That's why the Moolah is so special."

The magnificent Moolah Temple, a triumph of restoration and revitalization, official gala opening was held January 20 with the blessings from its previous owners, the Moolah Shriners.