



TOMS RIVER SOUTH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 1904

Toms River, N.J. 08753
TRSAA.COM

MEDIA ADVISORY

(Toms River, NJ) -- The Toms River South Alumni Association (TRSAA) is proud to announce the “Gia Prima Performing Arts Scholarship,” a new \$1,000 annual scholarship for graduating seniors at Toms River South. This scholarship honors esteemed alumnus Gia (Maione) Prima (TRHS Class of ‘59), and will be awarded to two graduating seniors that are planning to attend college and have been involved in the Arts.

As a student at Toms River High School (now known as Toms River High School South), Ms. Maione-Prima was very active in performing arts, and starred in “South Pacific” her senior year, garnering rave reviews from all who attended. Upon graduation, she received the prestigious National Arion Society Award in Music. With intent to attend Julliard School of Music in New York City, Gia worked at the Howard Johnson Restaurant on Route 37 in Toms River to save money for the tuition and to continue her vocal and piano instruction.

In 1961, Gia learned that Louis Prima, a world-famous jazz singer and musician, was conducting a nationwide search for a new vocalist. His tour brought him to the famous Latin Casino in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, where Gia auditioned on Mother's Day in 1962. She nailed the audition and got hired on the spot. The next 12 years were a whirlwind of live performances, TV shows, and recordings. Gia performed in Las Vegas casinos, at the world-famous Copacabana in New York City, in Philadelphia, Chicago, and various big cities all over the country. She also performed on the Ed Sullivan and Johnny Carson Shows, with Bob Hope, Dean Martin, Mike Douglas, Merv Griffin, Steve Lawrence, and Art Linkletter among others. She is credited with 14 albums and numerous 45's for Capitol Records, Disney Records, and a number of other record labels.

In 2004, she was inducted in the Toms River Regional Schools Hall of Fame. She is truly one of Toms River's finest.

The Gia Prima Performing Arts Scholarship is now among the long list of scholarships awarded annually through the TRSAA. Last year, the TRSAA awarded almost \$25,000 in scholarships, and it expects to increase that amount this coming June. Anyone interested in donating to, or volunteering for, the TRSAA should contact Michael A. Jedziniak, Esq. (Class of '82) at 732-612-3100 or maj@surenian.com. The TRSAA is a fully-registered non-profit public charity with 501(c)3 designation from the IRS. Contributions to the TRSAA are deductible Section 170 of the Federal Revenue Code.