



KIM AND REGGIE HARRIS

FRI SEP 20 2002

Underground Railroad Is Theme Of Musical Program On Monday

Middle and high school students from Southern Chautauqua County churches and their parents will gather for a performance of *Steal Away, Songs of the Underground Railroad*, by Kim and Reggie Harris.

The program will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Monday in St. James Catholic Church, 27 Allen St., Jamestown. It is free and open to the public. The performance is made possible by money awarded from the United Arts Appeal in Chautauqua County, which is administered by the county Arts Council.

The Harris' will use their talents to give participants insight into the life of escaping slaves and the journey north toward freedom. With songs, narration, role playing and a

slide/tape presentation they will illustrate the history of slavery and the quest for freedom known as the Underground Railroad.

The Harris' have performed worldwide, including at the Kennedy Center and the Smithsonian Institution. They have composed music for television, radio and video and have been featured in a Silver Burdett/Ginn Music textbook. They have performed with artists such as Jay Leno, Pete Seeger, Richie Havens, Arlo Guthrie, Don McLean, Janis Ian and Joan Baez.

According to the couple, their presentation reveals "the hope, power and ingenuity to enslaved people who used their traditions, passion and resources to express their faith, strengthen their relationships

and communicate important information that led many of them to freedom."

The religious education leaders from the Catholic Churches of Southern Chautauqua County, who are hosting the event, hope youths attending the performances will gain a greater appreciation of the role of our own local faith communities have played in the protection of human rights in the past and our responsibility to continue to protect them in the future.

Joanne Zdrojewski, a coordinator for the event, said, "We feel that Kim and Reggie Harris are artists of fine quality and reputation and have the ability to reach our young people through drama and music in a deeply moving way."

For more information, call Ms. Zdrojewski at 664-4237.