Thumbs up, down

For Klein Steel Service employees who worked with local artists and sponsors to help raise more than $20,000 over the past three years for the Seneca Park Zoo Society with the "Beastly Bash." This year's event, Sept. 20, featured steel artwork burned by Klein Steel, finished by local artists and then auctioned to the highest bidder. All proceeds benefit the zoo's educational programs.

For the winners of the Young Audiences of Rochester Partnership Awards. YAR, a program bringing professional artists into the classroom, recognized writer Dale Davis as Artist of the Year, Penfield Central School District as Educator of the Year and Canandaigua National Bank as Community Partner of the Year.

For Rochester Institute of Technology professor James J. DeCaro, director of the Postsecondary Education Network International at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf. In September, DeCaro received the Hai He Award of Friendship from the city of Tianjin, China. The award is presented to foreign nationals who have worked in Tianjin and have "made outstanding contributions to the betterment of the city." DeCaro's group works with universities to apply state-of-the-art instructional technologies to education for people who are deaf.

For the Mary Cariola Children's Center's re-designed library and reading room for students, dedicated Oct. 1.

Spearheaded by supervisor Keri Lazenby Neathawk, and the library committee, the library is the first of its kind for the severely disabled students served by the center.

For retail — and consumer — madness. As early as a month ago, local stores were selling Christmas decorations. Can't we slow down and savor the current season — early autumn?

For The Commission Project, a nationally known music-education program based in Rochester. TCP received its first grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The $18,000 will help fund Composers for Kids, a yearlong composer residency program being held at five Rochester-area schools.

For the 11 Eastman Kodak Co. volunteers who donated their time and energy Sept. 13 to Lewis H. Morgan School 37.

Volunteers painted classrooms, organized materials and books. The volunteers from Kodak have come to School 37 for more than 15 years.

For Webster's Thomas Simone & Son Builders, Smith Barney and other sponsors of the 22nd annual St. Joseph's Village golf tournament Sept. 15. Held at