

# Family helps others deal with divorce

## Contest will draw attention to life changes

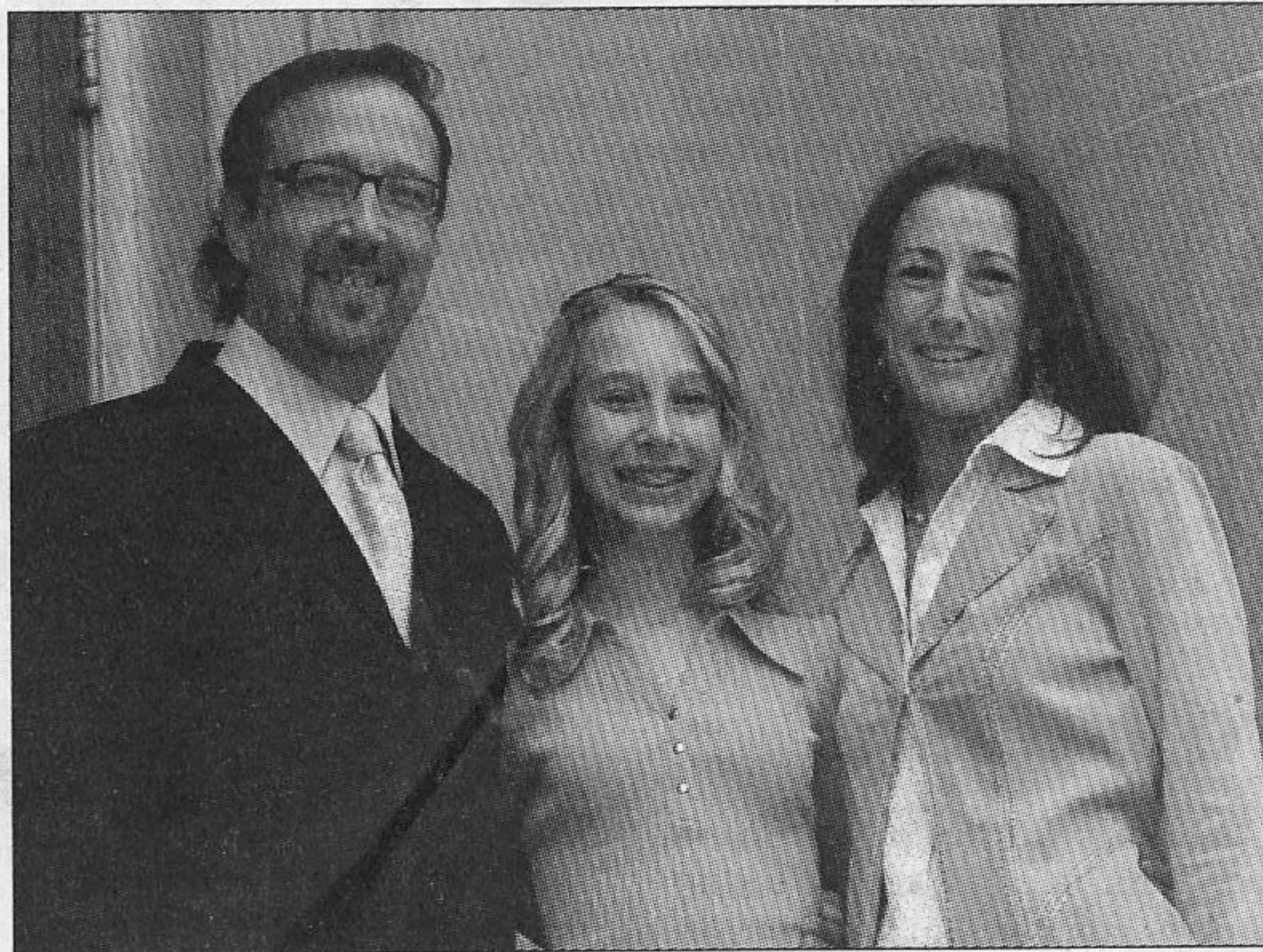
AJW Staff Report

Former spouses Julie Rappaport and Lee Liberman, and their daughter, Tasha, are co-authors of the book *Relational Shifts: A Family Doesn't Have to End Just Because a Marriage Does* (BookSurge Publishing). Using their own experience, the family has offered inspiration to people in various stages of change and life's shifts.

"I think there are many ways this could be discussed, not just about marriage and divorce, but about change and resilience, and the spiritual lessons that teach people not to fear change but to embrace it as a natural phenomenon," Rappaport said in a press release. "Without recognizing that natural cycling — in the universe and in all the relationships that make up our worlds — we add to our suffering."

On Dec. 6, 2007, they were keynote speakers at the annual conference for the Minnesota Collaborative Law Institute, which aims to help keep families going through divorce out of court and in as healthful a process as possible.

From that, they were asked to lead several regional meetings and workshops for the institute, as well as speak at the International Convention of the Collaborative Law Institute,



Courtesy of Julie Rappaport

**Julie Rappaport and Lee Liberman, and their daughter, Tasha, are authors of *Relational Shifts: A Family Doesn't Have to End Just Because a Marriage Does*.**

which will be held in October in New Orleans, La.

Coming up is their presentation at Daisy Camp For You on Feb. 2, a weekend retreat for women considering or going through divorce. They will also be featured in the January/February edition of A View from the Loft, the Loft Literary Center's magazine.

On Feb. 21, as part of the Loft's Third Thursday series, Rappaport, Liberman and their daughter will host the awards presentation for the contest they are organizing titled "Shift Happens: A Healing Story Festival."

Submissions are sought for the

festival in two divisions: Hot Chocolate for Divorced Families, requiring submissions to have healing stories that empower families during their transition; and Manure for the Garden, which opens the discussion to anything (outside of divorce) where people have experienced the "dung" in life and turned it into fertilizer, not only for themselves, but for their community at large.

Entries can be made in written or video format.

The cost is \$10 to enter (students may have fees waived with proof of enrollment), and the deadline is 12

p.m. Friday, Feb. 1. Winning entries will be read or screened at the event, which will take place 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21 at the Loft Literary Center, 1011 Washington Ave. S., Suite 200, Minneapolis. A portion of the evening's proceeds will support the Loft's scholarship fund.

Winners will be awarded \$200 and share proceeds of a compilation of entries to be produced.


At the event, they will read from *Relational Shifts* and screen the

demo-pilot of *Abnormally Normal*, a Web series loosely based on the book, which was featured at the local Screenwriters' Workshop.


"In sharing one's story, by becoming vulnerable yet strong in that," Rappaport said, they "offer others the ability to look at their own difficult story and find faith, meaning and strength."

\*\*\*

**For information, visit: [www.relationalshifts.com](http://www.relationalshifts.com) or: [www.smokinyogi.com](http://www.smokinyogi.com).**



MINNEAPOLIS JEWISH DAY SCHOOL



**MJDS**  
**Pre-School Story Time Express**

Families With Children Ages 3 and 4 Are Invited to spend a Morning Nurturing Their Child's Knowledge Through Reading

Please join us...

**Sunday, January 13, 2008**  
**10:00–11:15 a.m.**

Books • Songs • Creative Movement • Crafts • Snacks • Friends

