

*Defying an impossible fate, destiny's abruptly rewritten by unimaginable paths. Eerie synchronicity directs a miraculous escape from grips of WWII Europe to America, as skilled artistry quiets chaos in a quest for truth and self-peace.*

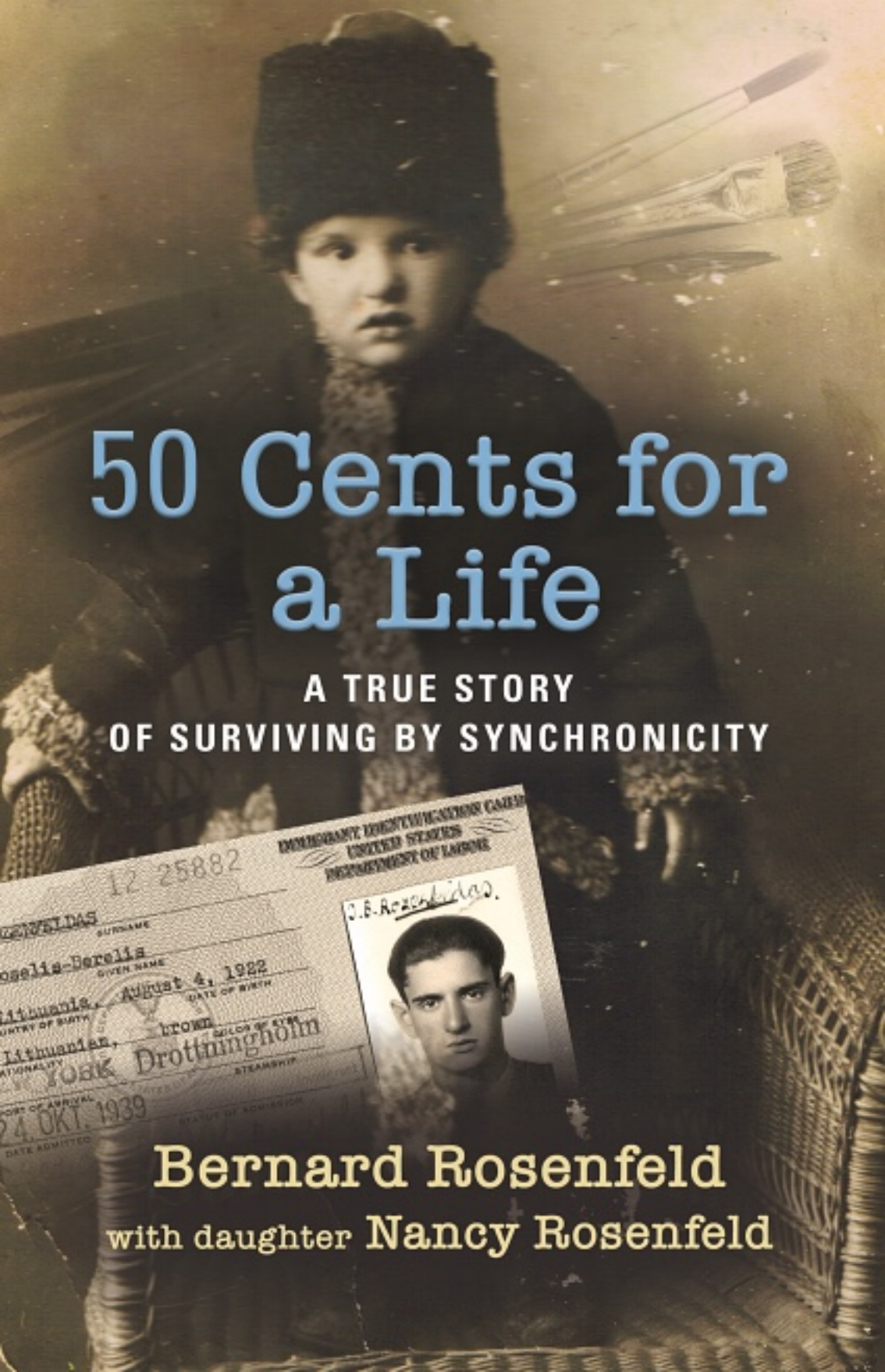
**50 Cents for a Life:  
A True Story of Surviving by Synchronicity**

By Bernard Rosenfeld, with daughter Nancy Rosenfeld

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# 50 Cents for a Life

A TRUE STORY  
OF SURVIVING BY SYNCHRONICITY

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EMIGRANTS' DOCUMENTS  
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DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

Rosenfeld  
SURNAME

Bernard  
GIVEN NAME

Lithuania  
COUNTRY OF BIRTH

Lithuanian  
NATIONALITY

Roak  
STEAMSHIP

August 4, 1922  
DATE OF BIRTH

brown  
COLOR OF EYES

Drottningholm  
PLACE OF BIRTH

24. OKT. 1939  
DATE ADMITTED

B. Rosenfeld  
NAME



**Bernard Rosenfeld**  
with daughter **Nancy Rosenfeld**

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## Dedication

*To Bernard Rosenfeld, his siblings and mother, and millions of others who came here with a challenging destiny. May their lives be remembered and honored. May humanity evolve with compassion and respect. May belief in synchronicity inspire holding on to embrace divine openings of possibility.*



## Acknowledgements

This book would not exist, with its rich details and vivid images, without the emotionally raw manuscript written by my father, Bernard Rosenfeld. A role model in perseverance and determination, his story is shared at his request, to give hope for what can be created in life and to remember that we are here to help each other, to not abandon during difficult times.

Thank you to Shelley, my sister, for her inspiration, awareness, and always being there to talk stories and memories. Thank you to my sister, Tina, for her support and continuous involvement with our parents' care, and to Diane for her early years of big sister helpfulness. To Ryan, my son, heaps of gratitude for his patience, understanding, humor, and kindness – I am so blessed.

Vast appreciation extends to the U.S. Holocaust Museum for incredibly detailed timelines, archives, and registry matches. Thank you to hundreds of researchers, writers, film producers, and documentaries that educate, inform, and help create awareness to be a better society.

Thank you to my friends, from childhood to current island home, for listening, encouraging, cheering, and supporting this timeless endeavor.

To my publishing team at Booklocker – Angela, Ali, Todd for cover design – and more, thank you for your patience, upbeat attitude, and continuous helpfulness.

A huge cast of characters exist within this life story who contributed through their mighty and intricate actions. I am forever grateful to be able to share this story, of one more unique soul who endured greatly,

who survived at times with pain impossible to smolder, and other times, with joy that decorated his spirit.

I am grateful to you for reading this book, to complete my father's last wish, that his story be received, known, and the lives of those who could not speak, be honored.

The legacy of this book seeks to inspire belief in unexpected, outrageously positive, possibilities!

Nancy Rosenfeld, Co-Author

# 50 Cents for a Life

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## Prologue

Dangerous Nazi Germany was already terrorizing during the early moments of World War II. Anyone planning to depart Lithuania must get out now, within the next 72 hours to be exact. After that, transport routes and borders would be heavily guarded without mercy for a young Jewish man's desire for survival.

At only 17 years old, Bernard, the youngest of six siblings, would be leaving everything he ever knew - his rural village, his large family, close lifelong friends. Options were perilous, risky no matter what action he chose.

With the clock ticking, panic spread rampantly throughout his village. He held no money and no papers. It was a treacherous fate. The chances of escaping from eastern Europe were nil. The thought of crossing fierce military borders was enough to not even try.

Young friends teased Bernard: *"You won't go to America. You'll stay here and die with us!"* Bernard responded with certainty: *"No, I will go to America! And I will return to visit your graves."*

But there would be no graves. Cruel Nazis viciously forced Lithuanian Jews to dig deep pits in the forest earth, exhausted until they could barely stand. Then shots were mercilessly fired, all of them collapsing dead upon one another. Massive body counts were piled skin-to-skin in each killing pit, including Bernard's family and friends.

*"How can I get out in three days?! It is impossible!"*

*"I feel numb, floating, hearing sounds but no words,"* echoed in Bernard's mind two days after receiving the urgent state of affairs from

the consulate. Only 24 hours remained to flee. He pleaded for a miracle as news worsened, leaving many hopeless with fear.

And then, out of nowhere, the opportunity to escape descended upon Bernard like a mysterious spell. He had a way out. Whether or not he would be protected, destiny would reveal at each dangerous border.

Raw emotions were buried in disbelief at the surreal scene before him on this final day to leave. The only sound was the crunch of pebbles beneath his feet as he walked upon his village road in the chill of the dark morning.

He paused to turn around slowly, solemnly waving goodbye to family and friends who gathered to witness the moment with envy, fear, or wonder. His eyes saw familiar faces with smiles and tears, but their words were mouthed without sound. His ears did not want to hear their voices speak about his sudden dangerous exodus into the unknown.

In the wake of the ominous alert signaling imminent border closures, the events of the previous day held an air of mystery, revealing a story that could only be described as a divine twist of fate.

He was oblivious that his life ahead would be steered by angel-like synchronicities, painful empty paths, and miraculous safety.

This is the brave true story of Bernard Rosenfeld, a strong stoic man from a poor Jewish family in a village of Lithuania. He narrowly escaped the worst atrocities of humanity, while his family and over 90% of his town did not survive. This is the story of magical synchronicity, inspiring hope and belief in oneself to continue on when the path appears impossible. This is an example of unstoppable determination and the ultimate acceptance of letting go to find peace.

Bernard silenced the painful memories of his story by refusing to read details about the horrendous killing pits of his town until decades afterwards. He refused to share his emotional journey of immigration with his daughters until almost fifty years after his escape. He

stubbornly tried to bury the pain in his heart, afraid of what might occur if he allowed himself to feel, afraid he would lose control as a strong husband, father, and businessman.

The threatening eruption of fierce grief and sorrow had to be buried. It was safer that way. Life was in the deep South of the United States, isolated from a larger supportive Jewish community. Diverse immigrant cities, like New York and Chicago, were abundant with knowledgeable and experienced resources to help deal with this severe emotional trauma. Not so in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Finally, a critical life-changing and gut-wrenching decision flared; it was time to talk by releasing in writing the desperate fate of family. He never read his own manuscript after it was completed. It was enough to shed the throbbing story to honor his family.

Bernard Rosenfeld is my father and this book is a collaboration beginning with his original manuscript and expanded by research and current life events. My additions to his original manuscript are in italics, explaining his local references, as well as the unbelievably complex World War II theater surrounding his journey out of Europe.

I believe this act of collaboration was a soul promise between daughter and father. It was the topic during our final in-person conversation, looking each other directly in the eyes, and the subject of our last telephone call softly whispered from his dying bed. I promised him that I would do something with his manuscript, because he wanted the story to be shared. He wanted others to know what can happen if we don't help each other. He wanted to honor his family, friends, and millions of others who were insensibly murdered in the Holocaust.

My wish is that in sharing my father's life story, others will be knowledgeably informed from an eyewitness account of the Holocaust and WWII years, to expand compassion and respect for the effects of diverse life stories. May this inspire each of us to live life with utmost

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goodness, love and harmony, and appreciate the many blessings from angel-like synchronicity.

Thank you for reading and entering this story.

Nancy Rosenfeld

## About Co-Author Nancy Rosenfeld

Bernard's third daughter, Nancy, shares her father's passion for artistic expression and introspective writing. After a long career in finance, consulting to leadership teams, and speaking nationally on the topic of initiating change, the nomad urge was embraced as she traveled extensively, landing on the tropical island of Maui, Hawaii, where she lives today.

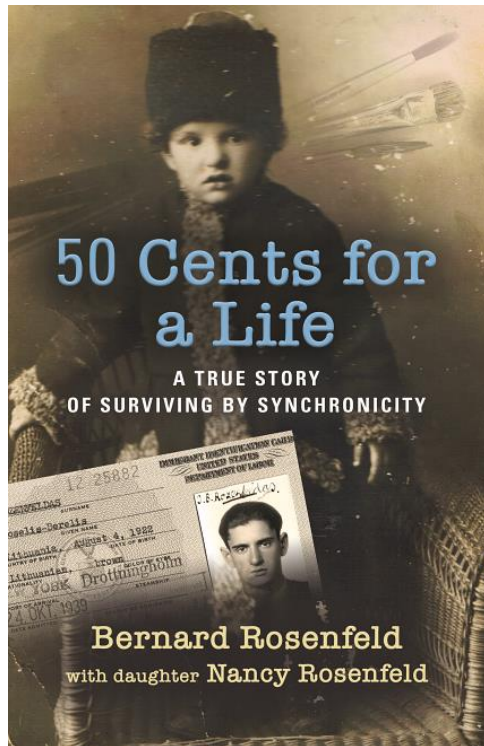
Crafting this book was a spiritual-like endeavor, weaving together her father's original manuscript, filmed interview, and numerous photos, honoring his final words for his story to be shared. His life demonstrated persistence and encouraged a heart-felt collaborative soul promise to be fulfilled.

Nancy is the author of four other books, which include memoir, positive growth, travel adventures, and ancient tribal wisdom. Colorful fluid artwork and candid, inspiring books can be found at [www.iamdoingthisnancyrosenfeld.weebly.com](http://www.iamdoingthisnancyrosenfeld.weebly.com). Nancy's books:

- *I Am Doing This! A Travel Adventure Inspires a New Life*
- *A Path to Higher Self: Ancient Tribal Wisdom Shows the Way*
- *A Left-Brain Thinker on a Right-Brain Journey*
- *Finding Joy Amidst the Chaos*

A website has been created to share many of Bernard's photos, offering vivid images that illuminate Lithuanian memories, family gratitude, and superb story-telling. [www.50centsforalife.weebly.com](http://www.50centsforalife.weebly.com).

The co-authors, Bernard in Non-physical, and his daughter, Nancy, thank you for reading and honoring the joy of fulfilling dreams.



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