

DEBBIE EGAN-CHIN

Gloria Sesso, of the Long Island Council for Social Studies, and Holocaust historian Bill Tinglin during the discussion on Thursday at the Museum of American Armor.

BETHPAGE

PANEL TALKS ANTISEMITISM, RECALLS A TIME OF JUSTICE

Moderated event marks anniversary of Nuremberg Trials

BY SAM KMACK
sam.kmack@newsday.com

One by one, the accused Nazi war criminals who hadn't died by suicide or other means lined up in a Nuremberg, Germany courtroom 81-years ago Friday to face what had previously seemed almost beyond belief: justice

The start of the Nuremberg Trials on Nov. 20, 1945, their legacy of successfully bringing the powerful to justice for committing atrocities in the name of hate, and ways to make sure something like the Holocaust is never repeated, were the topics of a panel discussion Thursday at the Museum of American Armor in Bethpage.

"We must hold people accountable [even if] they have uniforms or they're doing things that they said they were led by their government to do," said Bill Tinglin, a Holocaust historian who sat on the panel. "That's how the Nuremberg [defendants] were held accountable."

Several dozen people turned out for the event, which was organized by the Garden City-based law firm Rosenberg, Calica, Birney, Liebman & Ross. In addition to Tinglin, the panel included Mindy Perlmutter, the executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Council, Gloria Sesso, who chairs the Long Island Council for Social Studies, retired U.S. Army Col. Jason Halloren and Joshua Liebman, a partner with the host law firm.

Time has not erased the antisemitism that fueled the rise of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi defendants at Nuremberg, according to the panel speakers. The Anti-Defamation League put the number antisemitic incidents nationwide in 2024 and 2025 combined at roughly 16,000.

"My grandfather would be forced to say that things are starting to look frighteningly familiar, when compared to the streets of Vienna before the Holocaust," museum spokesperson Gary Lewi said in an email to Newsday after the discussion, citing "today's events that are happening out there with swastikas on synagogues."

A recent example allegedly occurred in Lawrence. On Nov. 10, the Nassau County Police Department arrested and charged a Brooklyn man after he allegedly drew a swastika on a Jewish community center in the village.

Sesso, the social studies education expert, said a major outcome of the Nuremberg trials was the documentation of the crimes of the Holocaust, allowing its history to be taught accurately.

Retired U.S. Army Colonel Jason Halloren, who is the Museum of American Armor's senior trustee and sat on Thursday's panel, said the trials set an international legal foundation "for holding people accountable."

"All the things that led up to [atrocities like the Holocaust] — the creating a perception that a certain population . . . is evil — to allow that to go on is criminal in nature," Halloren said.