

junior writer

CAIT

Gets the Lowdown on Lebanon Lilly!



Author, Jen Kuzo

kids 2 kids
By Junior Writer Cait

Introducing Jennifer Kuzo, the president of Visit Lebanon Valley, who just wrote a book called *The Adventures of Lebanon Lilly*. She has worked at Visit Lebanon Valley for three years. What does Visit Lebanon Valley do? They are a destination marketing organization that promotes the Lebanon Valley. They share fun reasons to visit our area for locals and overnight guests, as well. They highlight the best places to go! They have created a shopping and antiquing trail, a family fun guide, and a history trail. They also have downtown architectural walking tours of Lebanon that tie in a little history with some of the amazing architecture. So, as you can see, they are very busy!

Jen has also written a children's book, *The Adventures of Lebanon Lilly*. Lebanon Lilly is about a curious little cow that travels around Lebanon to some of our best attractions and sees some really fun things. You can even visit Lebanon Lilly, a life-size statue of the cow, at the Visit Lebanon Valley office. Jen found the statue of the cow

in her own travels and brought it back to her office!

Here are some questions that Jen answered about Lebanon Lilly and her new book!

Q: Why did you pick a cow out of the other animals?

A: Cows are so common to see here in the Lebanon Valley, and our number one industry is agriculture. I was looking for something typically found in the area that everyone will enjoy. I wasn't out looking for cows, though. I saw it for sale, and that started me thinking that it would be a perfect fit.

Q: How did you get Lilly from Palmyra back to Lebanon?

A: My friend Pat Kerwin, who runs the Lebanon Area Expo Center, has a pickup truck and was kind enough to drive her to my office in the back of his truck. She is about 100 lbs., so it wasn't easy getting her out.

Q: Out of all of the fun and nice places in Lebanon, how did you pick the

ones you did in the story?

A: I wanted to represent the beautiful outdoor spots for recreation like the Rail Trail, Memorial Lake, and Coleman Memorial Park, farm-fresh produce like the farmers' market and the apple orchard, and historically significant spots like Cornwall Iron Furnace and Union Canal Tunnel. The majority of the spots are also nonprofits that could use promotional support.

Q: How many books did you sell so far?

A: Well, I would estimate about 350 so far. All of the six Lebanon Valley libraries have them to sell, as well, because the proceeds from the sale of the book benefit the Lebanon Valley Library Systems.

Q: How many copies did you make?

A: 1,000

Q: Is this the first book you wrote?

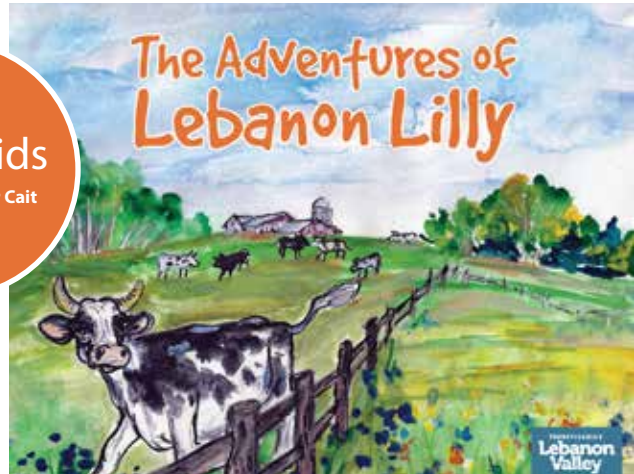
A: Yes, I never imagined myself as an author. It is really the story that I tell everyone who asks me, "What is there to do in the Lebanon Valley?"

Q: Will you write another book?

A: Possibly in another year or so, there could be a sequel to *Lebanon Lilly*. There are so many more places for her to visit; perhaps, she will fall in love?



Lilly at the Lebanon Farmers' Market



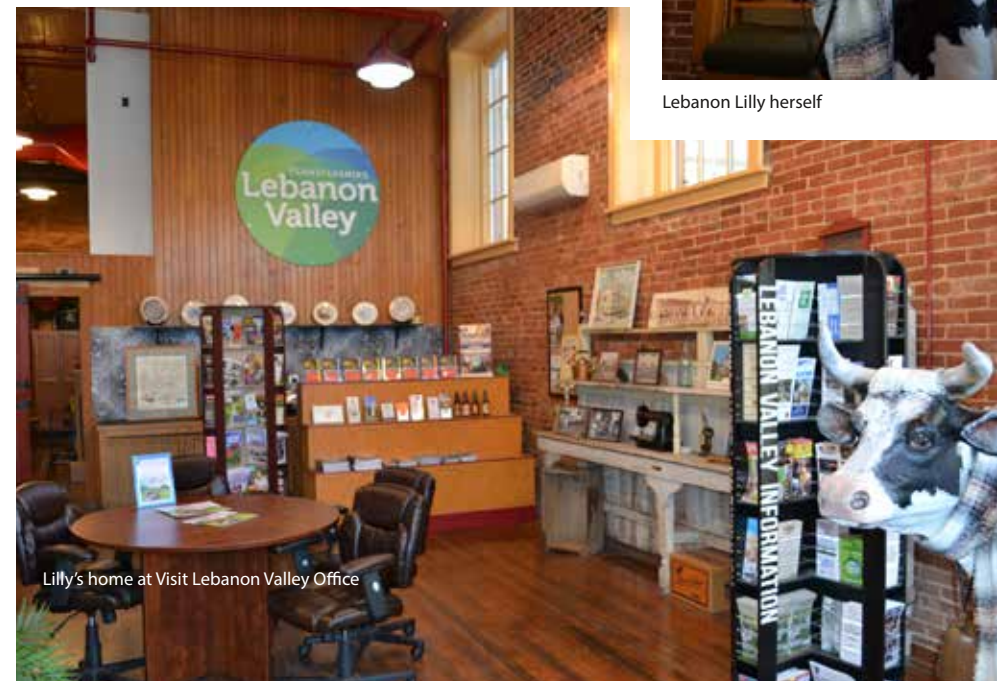
The Adventures of Lebanon Lilly book



Cait and Lilly



Lebanon Lilly herself



Lilly's home at Visit Lebanon Valley Office

Q: Have you had the chance to read the book anywhere?
A: It was quite an honor for our book to be selected by the United Way as the "Read Across America" book to read for over 60 first-grade classrooms in the Lebanon Valley. I read it at four different elementary schools and have also read it to the children at the Palmyra, Annville and Richland libraries for storytime.

Q: What are the next plans for Lebanon Lilly?

A: Well, today, she is dressed in her St. Patty's day outfit to celebrate March. We are in the process of planning a birthday party for Lilly this summer. It will be Saturday, June 6, from 10 am - 1 pm, here at the visitors center in the farmers' market, 31 S. 8th Street, Lebanon. We will have milk and snacks (while supplies last) and games and fun throughout the day. Lilly will be available for selfies, and the dairy princesses will be here, as well. It's going to be a blast.

If you'd like to buy a book and read about Lilly's adventures, they are \$10 each and the proceeds go directly to the Lebanon County Library System. The books can be purchased at any of the six Lebanon County libraries or at the Visit Lebanon Valley Office. Stop by Visit Lebanon Valley or visit their website, www.visitlebanonvalley.com, to see what else you can do for fun in Lebanon County or to find things to do when you have visitors!

Visit Lebanon Valley
31 S. 8th Street
Lebanon, PA 17042
E: welc@visitlebanonvalley.com
P: (717) 277-0100

Hours
Tuesday-Friday, 10 am-4 pm
Saturday, 10 am-3 pm

We want to know about you! Do you play a sport or have a talent? Do you want to talk about a favorite movie or vacation place? Contact me at mary.stoltzfus@n2pub.com, and I'll let Cait and Atalia know!

