

The FALO Chronicle

2004

Penned by Falana WyvernStryke

2004, January 10 ~ Yule gather at the Wander On Inn (Kballil's & E'ile's)

Frigid weather surrounds the first gather at this site, but the warmth of a fine hall and good companions ensures that all enjoy themselves. Nearly the entire clan is in attendance.

Galatyne & Sadosed engage in a long conversation about the innate nature of drow, as well as the moral character of mercenaries.

Willow agrees to contact her father, Quinnareas, so those members involved with the search for Starshadow's muse can learn more of sirens. The party is anxious to make progress, particularly when Starshadow begins mentioning his new 'hobby' of hunting and killing brigands.

There is talk of a second trip under Illyr to address the evil emanating from the fire gate. Fiona expresses interest in the undercity, but is committed to helping Clianna with her quest to recover her stolen fairy essence.

Rodin Rae gives gifts to those who helped heal her at the last gather. Many of the healers in the clan gather to share conversation on their methods, causing their more wary clan-kin to give them wide berth.

hOOt and Rahne share their new knowledge of several dances, which some of the less-than-willing male "volunteers" turn into an entertaining, if somewhat violent, spectacle.

Kiriannin refuses to speak of his marriage to Rhiannin, leaving those who ask to wonder what had happened.

Several of the clan tell E'ile that a mysterious stranger had been asking around about her. They come up with a plan to catch the stranger (believed to be male); hOOt expresses confidence in his ability to encounter the stranger again.

At the meeting, it is announced that the fee for FALO children has been changed to a flat rate through 16 yrs of age, and that the Springfest fee for guest children would be half the adult guest fee. The new dues structure (effective with the next fiscal year beginning in Jul) is reviewed with the clan.

2004, February 21 ~ Gather at Willow's & Ellam's

Snow still covers the ground, despite several warm days. There are many in attendance, and a festive air fills the hall.

Ellam, Kballil and Galatyne return from their journey to the Underdark of Endhome. They traveled there to learn more about the drow culture, and learned much. Ellam also brings back a gift from his drow cousins, a finely crafted naginata that was created for him.

There has been no word from Quinnareas, but Rodin Rae and Falana bring information on the nature of sirens, and the party begins to plan the search for Starshadow's muse. There is talk of proposing a barter with the siren and speculation on what she would find an acceptable trade. It is suggested that each give up a song

to the siren, in exchange for Starshadow's muse, but hOOt and Falana find this unpalatable. Shani, who is part siren, and Atraties agree to join the quest.

Kayuga (known as Hassius, before an encounter with a wizard left him a host-body for the inhabitants of the small town of Kayuga, some 40 souls in all) causes some concern over his nature when it is realized he has vampiric fangs. After some discussion, however, it is determined that he is not actually a vampire, because the presence of such a being would have been noticed immediately.

Clianna is preparing to leave on her quest soon.

D'Nara mentions to several people the fact that she has begun a series of unexplained physical changes, giving her horns some days, pointed ears another, tails or wings on still others. No one is able to offer a reason for such changes.

hOOt and Rahne again show the clan several dances, with a less violent outcome than at Yule.

hOOt's attempts to draw out the stranger seeking E'ile have as yet proved unsuccessful, although he continues to express confidence that the stranger will again show himself.

At the meeting, it is announced that all Moonstoneholders need to turn in a FALO File by Springfest, or it will be written for them by the council. A new dues policy for those receiving Welcomestones will take effect in July (the new fiscal year): half-dues will be collected from new Welcomestoneholders for the fiscal year in which they receive their stones. FALO's presence at I-Con is discussed.

E'ile receives her Moonstone.

2004, March 13 ~ Gather at the Wander On Inn (Kballil's & E'ile's)

Pleasant weather prevails for the gather, hinting at the imminent arrival of spring.

The quest to retrieve Starshadow's muse succeeded, mostly. While Areanna and Rodin Rae were able to drug Starshadow and get him aboard The Emerald Lady, he broke out of the brig, injuring a sailor and hOOt. This led to hOOt's newfound belief that his friends are the cause of his pain. Areanna was able to open the portal to the siren's grotto, but a lightning strike to the mast drove the ship off-course before Kiriannin and Starshadow made it through, leaving them aboard ship. (blahblahblah so forth & so on - story in DS) (other muses - possible aid from Rinka in finding whose they are; Dark Lady song;) Starshadow leaves The Emerald Lady and Kiriannin in Toolibrie; Kiriannin does not make it to the gather, giving rise to speculation of what - or who - might be detaining him.

Sabine receives a letter telling her someone is on the way to see her. Kyara and Aranek decide it is in their mutual best interests to enter an engagement of convenience.

Kittarina has pointed ears, and a more regal demeanor. She inquires several times of Starshadow why there are not more courtly functions at Caer Falken.

Igraine arrives, and Regar is smitten by her, although he doesn't quite know what to do about it.

Granarinth and Stalzer walk a patrol, and find an assassin lurking. Stalzer uses a spell of holding to restrain him and bring him into the inn while Granarinth pursues a second assassin. Sabine concocts an herbal infusion to encourage truthful responses from the prisoner, and Rodin Rae questions him. We learn it was indeed E'ile's aunt Melia behind the assassins, and that more would follow. Melia wants to reconsecrate the Sacred Scrying Pool to her dark deity, but needs the Sacred Scrying Tools to do so. The prisoner hints that Melia is located somewhere to the north before killing himself. The second assassin escapes Granarinth after the two wrestle. E'ile plans to return to the Szagany caravan after the gather;

Kittarina agrees to act as a decoy and go to Caer Falken, where she will seek further information from the Egg.

No dancing this gather, since hOOt's hand is still healing from the injury aboard ship.

Granarinth reveals the first draft of the post-cataclysm map.

Khallil receives his Moonstone.
Sabine receives her Welcomestone.

2004, March 20 ~ First English Country Dance session, at Starhaven

Attended by a dozen members & guests. A fine time is had by all. Dootadootadoo!

2004, March 26-28 ~ F-Con, at SUNY-Stony Brook.

FALO's first official representation at this event. The clan hosts an information table and panel discussions on character development and mead brewing. Formal introductions to the Majestic Kingdom of Avalon are made (after previous missive-only contacts). The invitation for Avalon to attend Springfest is reiterated, and invitations are also issued to the Barony of An Dubhaigeainn (Medva's former comrades-in-arms) and the Kingdom of Dragonwynde.

2004, April 17 ~ Gather at Caitlin's Cottage (Caitlin's & Medva's)

The first gather at this site is met with fine spring weather. A patch of "FALO" ground is offered for all present to plant with flower seeds.

Kyara begins planning an engagement-announcement ball, which Aranek is not sure is appropriate.

Kittarina still acts and looks the regal elf, and there is still no explanation of why.

Kyara is also not quite herself, introducing herself as Kira Majdi to almost everyone.

Tallpine and Maya return after a long absence, bringing news of Tallpine's homeland, which apparently was lost during the cataclysm. It seems that his giant kin are slowly losing the memory of their home, some even forgetting their native language.

Sabine's visitor, Jedlika – an herbologist from near Snowdrop – arrives and tells Sabine of a growing problem with the ivanneth, the most important herb in Snowdrop, which it is hoped Sabine will be able to remedy with the help of her grandmother's journal (which she has not yet been able to read). Sabine agrees to travel home, and Loquitor to escort her. There is speculation whether this journey will aid or hinder Loquitor as the target of drow assassins.

Amnesia forgets Caitlin's admonition not to drink from the blue bottle, and pours some for herself, Rinka and Falana. Amnesia and Rinka begin fighting for an uncertain reason shortly thereafter. Falana begins acting strangely toward Galatyne, finding him "cute", much to Galatyne's dismay. Many of those at the gather attempt to "help" by offering her advice on wooing him. It is determined that both incidents are related to the contents of the blue bottle, which contained Caitlin's former husband's heart medication, and apparently effected a 'change of heart' in its fey consumers. Galatyne is relieved when the effects wear off, although it does not happen soon enough for his comfort.

E'ile announces she is pregnant.

2004, May 22 ~ Gather at Starhaven

Argenta arrives with a message for "the Braethen", accompanied by a medallion identified as Kiriannin's Seflannin medallion. Kyara takes the medallion in Loquitor's absence. Since no one has seen Kiriannin since The Emerald Lady docked in Toolibrie two months ago, there is some concern for his whereabouts. Falana

assures Kyara that she will do her best to track Kiriannin through the maithrendyn liscis, the bond-blade Falana gave him several years ago.

Gwydion is attempting to civilize goblins, and brings one to the gather. Thus far, his efforts appear to have had minimal effect.

DeSuave and DeBerron tell of how DeBonet has gone missing, and is presumed captured by drow. The possible connection back to Loquitor is again noted.

2004, June 12 ~ Springfest XVFF, at Camp Nooteeming.

Beautiful weather prevails (and everyone rejoices.yay!). Despite absent members (both expected and unexpected), the day goes on fairly smoothly, albeit somewhat behind schedule.

Regar Redgrave wins the light archery tourney, with a total of 12 points. The weapons tourney is changed to represent a legendary battle of Ellam's people, with the boundaries shifting for every round. Heraizumi no Kirin wins the final match against Gwydion. The archery tourney is won by someone *other* than Loquitor..Gwydion wins by a narrow margin, with Aranek and Loquitor placing 2nd and 3rd, respectively.

The Wayward Games are won by The Volunteered, completely composed of folks hOOt “convinces” to play. They may not have played willingly, but they display their intense desire for freedom as they fled, fought, and drove their way from the gladiatorial arena. The Volunteered are: Capt. Theta Tarn, Alaric, Alfrieda, Kasara Ra'Kash, Lorelei, and Gwydion.

Many visitors to the Wayward Wood set out to seek magical items lost by ancient heroes as they battled against one of their own when he followed his goddess into darkness. Ashleen found the Eye of the Moon after a long search, and Eltharin found both the sensor of Shamash and the ring of Ishtar. With the ring was found a rune-engraved shard of an evil blade wielded by the fallen paladin of Irkalla.

Argenta and Giles are tied to the maypole (willingly, even). The Drek Knights are rumored to have been lurking in the woods, although there is no sign of DrekBane. Several attendees claim to have been sniffed by the Drek Knights, apparently in search of drek, but it is unclear whether their search was successful.

2004, June 26 ~ Elders' Summer Summit, in Forsythia

The council agrees to invite clan comment on proposed by-law changes, allowing a 30-day comment period before the proposed change is implemented. By-law changes proposed at this summit are the clan comment period, that elders have no term limits (terms are 2 years, renewable), and that elders may be removed by a 2/3 vote of the remaining elders (no longer unanimous). Kittarina and Areanna step down as elders at the end of the summit. The ten Reeve positions are assigned for the next 2-yr term. Reeves who are not on the council are also given a specific elder contact, to whom the Reeve may bring concerns or questions.

2004, July 10 ~ Sterling Renaissance Faire (upstate NY)

Indigo, Freya, Galatyne & Falana journey north to this faire. The party agrees to encourage others to join them in returning next season.

2004, August 8-24 ~ Pennsic XXXIII

Rahne fences for the first-ever War-Point for fencing. Heraizumi no Kirin and Firesmith are inducted into Tir Thalor.

2004, September 4 ~ MD Renaissance Faire

A small party (Argenta, Giles, Willow, Ellam) accompanies Kittarina south, where she dances & enralls a new audience.

2004, September 11 ~ Gather at Starhaven

The weather proves fair for the first gather of the season.

The events of the quest to reclaim Clianna's faery soul are relayed, although the results of her soul's time in the underplane and its effect on Clianna are not yet known. While in the underplane,

Kyara experienced another shift in behaviour, which she has since denied. (Story in Autumn 2004 DS)

hOOt again brings out the fish-mandolin and proceeds to sing the "green goblin" song several times.

Plans are made to remove the offensive instrument from his possession. After several attempts prove ineffective, the bard is tackled by half a dozen folks, and the instrument wrested from his grasp. After a few moments of piteous wailing, hOOt pursues the cursed instrument. He eventually climbs into a tree, refusing to come down. Shani sings so he'll come down, which unfortunately he does by falling to the ground. A number of healers work in concert to fix not only the damage from the fall, but also that from the effects of the instrument's curse.

Argenta delivers a missive to Kyara from a Count Edmund of New Sheldon, which gives her title to a number of sheep as a betrothal gift. Kyara is understandably upset by this. More surprising is Count Edmund's arrival at Starhaven later in the evening. He is accompanied by a vassal who keeps a list of those who offend him (Willow is placed on the list three times). The count challenges Aranek to a duel. Aranek carefully replies, saying if he 'were to accept the challenge, it would be daggers'. The count agrees. (did they agree on a time/date?) After the count leaves, many express concern for the count's scruples, or lack thereof, as it seems one attains rank in New Sheldon by how many one assassinates.

At the meeting, the by-law changes proposed at the summer summit are announced as final. Loquitor is announced as Historian. The date for Springfest 2005 is announced to be June 11th; all ministers are in place as of this gather.

2004, October 30 ~ Gather at the Aerie Shadow Mountain Hold (Willow & Ellam's)

The gather is hosted by the Aerie of Tir Thalor. The weather holds for the gather, although buzzards are seen circling overhead, presumably because there is generally carnage when large numbers of Tir Thalor men are about.

The afternoon boasts a bottica tournament - the game from Endhome proves popular. The winners - Rodin Rae, Aranek, Kirin, and (who else?) - are the first served at dinner. There is also a pumpkin-carving contest, which draws nearly a dozen participants. In the end, Fiona's pumpkin is deemed the creepiest, & she is awarded a knife crafted by Ellam (complete with jack-o-lantern pommel!).

Early in the gather, a fairy named Corinna arrives, bearing a striking resemblance to Kyara. While waiting for Angelica and Freya to arrive, she admits that the other fairies make fun of her because she can't fly or change her attire by merely thinking it. It turns out that's because it is actually Kyara.

After a long mysterious absence, Kiriannin appears at the gather, bringing with him a scent of evil that draws the attention of Ellam and Galatyne. He tells of being captured by drow and sent through a gate to a shadow realm (hence the scent of evil). He finally managed to find his way back, using the camaraderie of the clan as a guide, although he is unable to explain exactly how.

Areanna attempts the spell that will release Makei, the mage-spirit, from Rinka's courier pouch. The spell successfully releases him; however, he possesses Rahne and is determined to complete his final quest. After much cajoling, he is persuaded to leave Rahne's body and allow Rinka to complete his task on his behalf. The problem is that it's not clear what, exactly, the task is, so the first order of business will be to determine that. Rahne, Kiriannin, Falana and Galatyne agree to accompany Rinka on this quest.

It seems part of Starshadow's past has returned to haunt him. Some time ago, he was afflicted by a spirit-leech, which fed on his life-energy while in mortal realms (such as E'atara). The leech was removed, and the problem was considered resolved until the egg it left in Starshadow hatched. The insidious nature of the spirit-leech is such that it drains its host's energy until he or she perishes, and it then moves on to the one dearest to the deceased. However, its power is negated within the faery realms, so Starshadow, Areanna and Holly relocate back to the original Crystalmist realm, taking Caer Falken with them. With their departure, Sparrowreed is named Queen of Crystalmyst. Kyara is made Countess, and Loquitor is given command of the Knights of the Crescent Moon.

There is noticeable fairy presence at this gather and an inordinate number of *extremely* sparkly people. Kyara and Regar had a fairy spell placed upon them. A fairy tree was also present for the first time in many years.

Areanna and Starshadow leave the clan.

Fiona receives her Moonstone.

2004, November 20 ~ Gather at the Moonlit Mug

Due to the surprise arrival of Khallil & E'ile's new little elf the previous week, the gather is relocated to the Moonlit Mug. The collaborative efforts of a number of the clan on food and site preparation help make this unexpected move seem simple. Although Tefnut diligently blesses us with precipitation for much of the gather, spirits remain high amid fine companionship.

We are fortunate to have representatives from several other realms among us at this gather: Vixen of Timberwolf, Dankwert of Uberheim, D'Nara and Alvo of Three Skulls, and King Ronin and Queen Myfanwy of Dragonwynde. The clan and its guests are graciously invited to attend Myfanwy's birthday celebration the following day.

With Caer Falken's return to its original plane, the situation with Kittarina has taken a serious turn. While her demeanor in recent months has been decidedly more regal, at this gather it became clear that Kittarina's spirit no longer has any connection to her body. It seems that when Caer Falken left E'atara, Kittarina's spirit became trapped within the Egg (which had fascinated her to a disturbing degree). In its place is the spirit of the elf Pinugir, the queen of Caer Falken at the time of the incident that turned its residents into undead. It is requested that Willow speak to the elders of the Szagany tribe to see if they would be willing to use their magic to help remedy the situation. She agrees to do so.

Ellam also finds himself in need of magic or rather, a reversal of magic. It seems that Ellam insulted a human mage, who then cast a spell afflicting Ellam with facial hair. All his efforts to remove it have proven unsuccessful, and he is reluctant to try apologizing to the mage. He is seeking a magic-capable of removing the affliction, although it is uncertain exactly what spell was used, which may increase the difficulty of this.

Freya attends the gather as Indigo. This is somewhat confusing for a time because Indigo also attends the gather as Indigo. Initial fears that the deceased "red Indigo" had returned, or that another Indigo had

cropped up proved to be unfounded. As it turns out, it's a fairy game, so it is not necessary to try to fit another Indigo into Indigo. The clan is relieved.

Planning begins in earnest for the journey to learn of Makei's quest. It is decided to begin at the library of Wyn Eryi. Beren is determined to accompany the group, despite strong efforts to dissuade him.

At the meeting, it is announced that Guest children, up to and including the age of 16, will be assessed a flat fee (changing from the previous age-variable rate), effective immediately.

Rinka Tur receives her Welcomestone.

