

In 1924 the family returned to the United States. Marzieh began her studies at Vassar College and graduated from Stanford University in 1929. Shortly afterwards, she married Howard Carpenter, a medical student at the same university. In 1932, she received a master's degree in English from the University of California at Berkeley.

Marzieh had first met Shoghi Effendi Rabbani (Šawqi Effendi Rabbani) in France in 1920, just before he became head of the Baha'i Faith. She was devoted to him, writing that the moments she spent in his presence were "the only really important times of [her] life except for the moments with 'Abdu'l-Bahá" (Gail, 1991, p. 301). For his part, Shoghi Effendi greatly valued and constantly encouraged her. In 1933, at Shoghi Effendi's request, Marzieh and Howard went to live in Iran, and Marzieh was hired as the first female reporter to serve on the staff of a Tehran newspaper (Chen, p. 137); but when Howard contracted poliomyelitis and became paralyzed, they returned to the United States, where he died. In 1939, she married Harold Gail, a manufacturer of springs, and in 1954 the two went to live in Europe as Baha'i pioneers, helping to establish Baha'i religion first in France and later in Austria and the Netherlands.

Marzieh Gail's literary career began with essays she wrote for the Baha'i magazine *Star of the West* when she was a student at Stanford University. In 1951 she published *Persia and the Victorians*, followed by several works on Baha'i subjects and three books (including one for young readers) about fourteenth-century Europe. She also published newspaper articles under the pen name V. Ives. She was known for her irrepressible sense of humor, which permeated her writing. A reviewer of *The Three Popes* found it "disconcerting" that she treated "the record of human experience as something of a comic opera provided for the delectation of posterity" (Kirkus Reviews, p. 543).

While in Iran in the 1930s, she began to translate Baha'i scriptures into English. Shoghi Effendi commissioned her to translate the "Questions and Answers" appendix to Baha'-Allah's *Ketab-e aqdas* and then the text of the book itself, which she worked on in collaboration with Baha'i scholar Mirza Asad-Allah Fazel Mazandarani. Later she published a translation of Baha'-Allah's *Haft wadi* and *Cahar wadi*, followed by translations of 'Abd-al-Baha's treatise on modernization and reform, *Resala-ye madaniya*, and his *Tadkerat al-wafa'*. She contributed translations to the volume *Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá* and also translated the memoir *Zendagi-e Ostad Mohammad-'Ali Salmani*.

Marzieh Gail and her husband returned to the United States in 1964 and lived in Keene, New Hampshire. Her later years were devoted to writing a series of biographical and autobiographical works. Her husband did the household chores so she would be free to write (Chen, p. 138). In 1981 they moved to San Francisco, where she died in 1993.

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