

# UCSD's 'Magic and the Mind' youth program explores the psychology behind deception

"Magic and the Mind," a new five-day enrichment program using magicians' techniques to teach children about the psychology and neuroscience of deception, will take place from 1-5 p.m. Aug. 11-15 at the UC San Diego Extension University City Center, Room 303.

The program, designed and taught by cognitive scientist Dr. Iris Oved and magician Tom Interval, will engage middle- and high-school students ages 12-18 in several exercises centering on perception, attention, memory, assumptions, reasoning and social cognition.

Besides studying and performing magic tricks that exploit certain weaknesses in these cognitive functions, participants will discuss how the functions play a role in deceiving the mind.

"The mind is one of the most complex and elegant systems in the world," said Oved. "Understanding how it works and why it's so susceptible to deception teaches us how we, as critical thinkers, can override many of its fallacies, interpret the world more accurately and make better decisions in everyday life."

Students will participate in a final group project that involves creating a new magical illusion, and the instructors will conduct short pre- and post-tests to measure the program's impact on participants' critical-thinking skills.

To register for "Magic and the Mind,"

# MAGIC

## HOW DOES IT *fool us?*

**Find Out**

Have you ever wondered how magicians fool us with their illusions? If you're between 12 and 18, now you can find out. Introducing *Magic and the Mind*, a new five-day UCSD Extension program combining magic, neuroscience, and psychology to explore why the human brain is so easily deceived.

**When/Where**

Aug. 11-15, 1:00-5:00 p.m. daily, UCSD Extension City Center Room 303

**How Much**

The cost for the week is \$295, including all necessary materials.

**Email Soon**

Please email cognitive scientist Dr. Iris Oved or magician Tom Interval soon to reserve a space: [info@magicandthemind.org](mailto:info@magicandthemind.org). You may also call us at 619-730-3530 or 619-800-3780.

School District Approval



MAGIC  
& THE MIND

magicandthemind.org  
PO Box 10191 - San Diego, CA 92110



visit <http://extension.ucsd.edu/cart/index.cfm?vAction=view> and enter Section ID 105060 (registering for the program will require the creation of an online account). The fee is \$295, with a 20-student maximum.

To download a "Magic and the Mind" flier and sample schedule, visit [www.magicandthemind.org](http://www.magicandthemind.org). For the latest updates, visit the "Magic and the Mind" Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/magicandthemind>.