

# CELEBRATING JOSEPH LEE

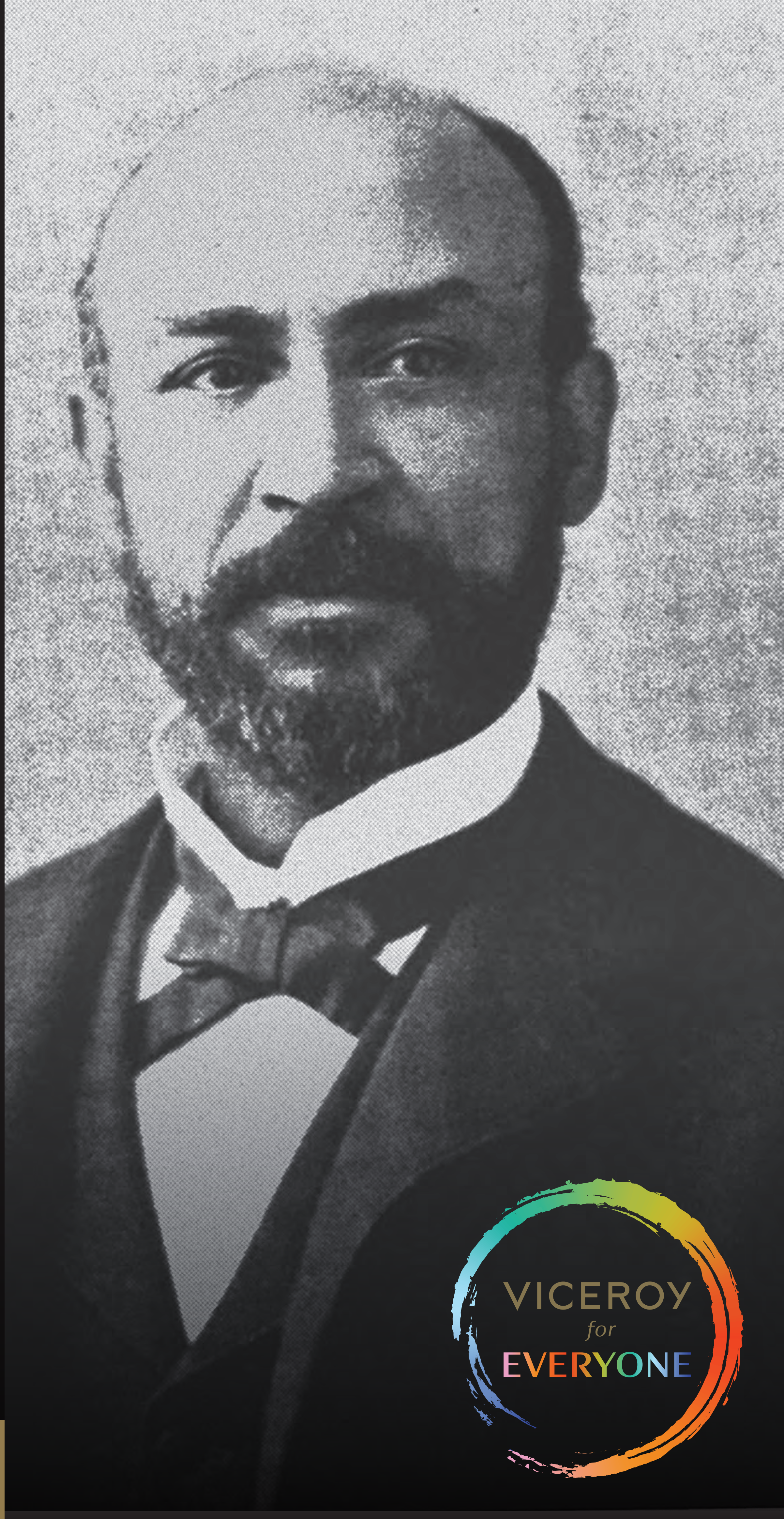
## HOTELIER, RESTAURANTEUR AND INVENTOR

Born in 1849, Joseph Lee worked at a bakery as a child and stayed close to food his whole life, inventing the first breadcrumb-making machine in 1895 to reduce food costs; its technology is now used in restaurants across the world. Starting in the late 1890s, Lee owned and managed the Woodland Park Hotel in Newton, MA, for 17 years, establishing him as a familiar face in the hospitality industry. Lee also opened two successful restaurants, a summer resort, and a catering company in the Boston area. As an honored pioneer in the food preparation industry, Lee was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2019.

**VICEROY FOR EVERYONE** is the initiative at the heart of Viceroy's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging efforts. This February, in honor of Black History Month, Viceroy recognizes and celebrates the achievements of Black Pioneers who have made a lasting impact on the hospitality and travel industry. Over the course of the month, we will spotlight their achievements, and share their incredible stories with our colleagues and guests.

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH



CELEBRATING

# BETTY REID SOSKIN

PIONEERING  
ACTIVIST, MUSICIAN,  
PARK RANGER

Born in 1921, Betty Reid Soskin is the founder of one of the first Black-owned record stores in the California Bay Area. She spent most of her life in harmony with nature and in touch with the African American experience. During the sixties, Soskin performed and wrote songs about the Civil Right Movement and raised money for the Black Panthers. At the age of 84, she became a park employee at the Home Front National Historic Park in Richmond, California. Soskin played an active role in developing the museum at the Rosie the Riveter/World War II to ensure Black women on the home front are memorialized. Her personal goal is to help people understand how different it was for African American women in the past. At 101 years old, she is now retired as the oldest park ranger in the U.S

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# BEN & VIRGINIA ALI

## FOUNDERS OF THE ICONIC BEN'S CHILI BOWL

Ben's Chili Bowl, founded by Ben (now deceased) and Virginia Ali (née Rollins) in 1958, is one of the oldest landmark Black-owned restaurants in Washington DC. It's also spawned two additional locations and two other restaurants around the DC metro area. After growing up and attending segregated schools in rural Virginia, Virginia met Ben, a Howard University student who grew up in Trinidad and Tobago. The couple made history when they signed the lease on a former silent movie theater-turned-pool hall and turned it into Ben's Chili Bowl. During the sixties, Ben's Chili Bowl served as a place for refuge and rest for the community during times of turmoil, welcoming all whether a prominent activist such as Martin Luther King, Jr., neighbor, organizer, or police officer. To this day, Virginia is actively involved in its operations, serving comfort food and cultivating community.

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